

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAJ-01 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /062 W
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P R 261641 NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2837

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 6052

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PFOR, SU, US, NO

SUBJ: LATEST SOVIET ATTACK ON NORWEGIAN PRESS AND NOBEL OFFICIALS
IN CONTINUATION OF CARROT AND STICK TREATMENT, COULD AFFECT
SAKHAROV

REFS: (A) OSLO 5578, (B) MOSCOW 16834, (C) OSLO 5451, D OSLO 5449

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SUMMARY: NORWEGIAN PRESS GIVES FULL PLAY TO LATEST "IZEVESTIA"
ATTACK ON NORWEGIAN PRESS AND NOBEL INSTITUTTE AND OTHER OFFICIALS
INVOLVED IN SAKHAROV CASE. ATTACK COMES JUST BEFORE NUMBER OF
IMPORTANT SOVIET-NORWEGIAN NEGOTIATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS AND
IS CLEARLY PART OF CARROT AND STICK TREATMENT SOVIETS HAVE BEEN
GIVING THE NORWEGIANS LATELY. BUT IT COULD ALSO BE
PRELUDE TO ACTION AGAINST SAKHAROV SOURCES BELEIVE HERE.
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END SUMMARY
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1. THE NORWEGIAN PRESS GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE ON NOV 26. TO "IZVESTIA" ATTACK ON NOV 25 ON NORWEGIAN NEWSPAPERS, MEMBERS OF NOBEL PREACE PRIZE COMMITTEE AND OTHER NORWEGIANS. NORWEGIAN TELEGERAM BUREAU (NTB) REPORT FROM MOSCOW CARRIED IN OSLO DAILY "AFTENPOSTEN" CHARACTERIZED "IZVESTIA" ARTICLE AS "UNUSUALLY STRONG ATTACK." THIS IS SECOND SOVIET GOVERNMENT PRESS CRITICISM OF NORWEGIANS IN RECENT WEEKS; ON OCT 21 "IZVESTIA" CHARGED NORWEGIANS WERE VIOLATING DEMILITARIZATIN PROVISIONS ON SVALBARD TREATY AND IT ASSAILED GON FOREIGN MINISTRY LEGAL ADVISER ELIASSEN, (OSLO 5449)

2. LATEST ARTICLE REPORTEDLY HITS OSLO NEWSPAPER "AFTENPOSTEN" (CONSERVATIVE), "MORGENBLADET" (CONSERVATIVE), "VART LAND" (CHRISTIAN PEOPLE'S) AND MAGAZINE "FARMAND" (CONSERVATIVE) FOR WHIPPING UP AND ANTI-SOVIET ATMOSPHERE RECALLING GOD WAR. IT CHARGES CERTAIN NORWEGIAN INSTITUTIONS SUPPORT THIS ATMOSPHERE AND CITES THE NOBEL INSTITUTE. IT ACCUSES STORTING'S REPRESENTATIVE AASE LIONAES, CHAIRMAN OF THE STORTING'S NOBEL COMMITTEE, OF HAVING CIA CONNECTIONS AND OF BEING MCARTHYIST AND ANTI-SOVIET. INSTITUTE DIRECTOR TIM GREVE, A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL WORKING AT THE INSTITUTE, IS DESCRIBED AS "WELL-KNOWN NATO ADHERENT" AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS JOHN SANNES AND BERNT INGVALDSEN ARE CALLED "ANTI-SOVIET". ARTICLE ACCUSES FORMER LABOR PARTY SECRETARY GENERAK HAAKON LIE AS BEING ON LIST OF PAID CIA AGENTS."

3. ARTICLE REPORTEDLY CONCLUDES WITH EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT NORWAY WILL FIND A WAY TO "CONTROL" THESE "OVERZEALOUS" AND SO-CALLED INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS AND INSTITUTIONS," WHICH IT SAYS VIOLATE NOBEL'S TESTMENT AND HELSINKI ACT.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND TOLD PRESS NOV. 26 HE DID NOT CONSIDER IT RIGHT OR APPROPRIATE FOR GOVERNMENT TO COMMENT ON THIS KIND OF FOREIGN PRESS ARTICLE. HE SAID "IZVESTIA'S REFERENCE TO CONTROLLING NRWEGIAN PRESS DEMONSTRATES LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF RELATIONSHIP OF PRESS, WHICH IS FREE AND INDEPENDENT, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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GOVERNMENT, WHICH NEITHER HAS POSSIBILITY NOR DESIRE INTERVENE IN PRESS IN NORWAY.

5. FORMER PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL LIE, WHO IS STRONG NATO ADVOCATE AND EARLY THIS YEAR PARTICIPATED IN COPENHAGEN SAKHAROV TRIBUNAL, SAID "IZVESTIA" ATTACK HAS TO BE LINKED TO ON-

GOING SOVIET-NORWEGIAN NEGOTIATIONS, BUT MAY BE PRELUDE TO ACTION
DIRECTLY AGAINST SAKHAROV AND HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS IN THE USSR.
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8. COMMENT: THIS LATEST BLAST AGAINST SEVERAL OF PROMINENT
NORWEGIANS COMES IN THE MIDST OF DISCUSSIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS ON
A NUMBER OF CRITICAL NORTHERN ISSUES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES,
AND THEREFORE HAS TO BE OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO GON. IN FACE OF
THIS OBVIOUS CARROT AND STICK TREATMENT, MFA UNDER SECRETARY
STOLTENBERG HEADS FOR MOSCOW THIS WEEKEND FOR TALKS WITH SOVIET
OFFICIALS ON BOARD RANGE OF BILATERAL MATTERS, WHERE HE HOPES
FIND SOME RAY OF HOPE FOR AGREED SOLUTIONS. EARLY NEXT
MONTH CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY DISCUSSIONS ARE SCHEDULED
TO RESUME IN OSLO T BE FOLLOWED BY FISHERY DISCUSSIONS.
THE "IZVESTIA" ARTICLE ECHOES TEHE DIATRIBE AGAINST THE
NORWEGIAN PRESS SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO DELIVERED
PRIVATELY
TO NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AT UN THIS FALL, AND EXPANDS THE
BROADSIDE TO INCLUDE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN SAKHAROV CASE, GIVING
CREDENCE TO HAAKON LIE'S SPECULATION THAT LINKING SAKHAROV TO
CIA MAY BE A STEP IN UPCOMING ACTION AGAINST HIM. THIS
IS FIRST TIME WE RECALL SUCH BROAD SOVIET FUSILADE AGAINST
NORWEGIAN PRESONALITIES; WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY EMBASSY MOSCOW
ASSESSMENT OF IT. END CONFIDENTIAL.
ANDERS

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